

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this response, as the response places the application in clear condition for allowance or alternatively places the claims in better form for appeal. Specifically, Applicants have amended the claims to overcome objections and rejections in the Office Action.

Claims 1-7 and 10-15 are pending in the application; Claim 9 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 1, 3-6, 10, and 13-15 having been amended by way of the present response.

In the Office Action the drawings were objected to; comments were made regarding claim interpretation; Claims 5 and 9 were objected to because of informalities; the specification was objected to as failing to provide antecedent basis for claimed subject matter; the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1-7, 9, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,466,298 to Tervamaki et al. (Tervamaki); and Claims 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tervamaki.

As stated above the drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of an invention specified in the claims. In response, Applicants respectfully assert that the claims do not recite these features. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

As stated above, comments were made regarding claim interpretation. In response, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite that the first retainer mechanism has a first threading configured to limit a motion of a piston in the suction chamber by cooperating with a first corresponding threading, and a second retainer mechanism has a second threading

configured to limit the motion of the piston in the suction chamber by cooperating with a second corresponding threading. Applicants respectfully assert that the originally filed specification discussed non-limiting examples of a calibration mechanism. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that the specification state that calibration of can be carried out by rotation of a nut 18 relative to a threading on a retainer sleeve 10, for example.¹ Notwithstanding this assertion, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite that the calibration mechanism includes a calibration threading configured to calibrate a movement of the piston in the housing by cooperating with a corresponding calibration threading.

As stated above Claims 5 and 9 were objected to because of informalities. In response, Applicants have canceled duplicate Claim 9. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

As stated above the specification was objected to as failing to provide antecedent basis for claimed subject matter. In response, as discussed above, Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to recite that a first retainer mechanism has a first threading configured to limit a motion of a piston in a suction chamber by cooperating with a first corresponding threading, and a second retainer mechanism has a second threading configured to limit the motion of the piston in the suction chamber by cooperating with a second corresponding threading, which the Office Action seems to agree is disclosed in the specification.² Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

As stated above the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. With regard to independent Claim 1, Applicants have amended the claim to recite that a calibration mechanism includes a calibration threading configured to calibrate a movement of a piston in a housing by cooperating with a corresponding calibration threading, a first retainer mechanism has a first threading configured to limit a motion of the piston in a

¹ Please see, in part, page 6, lines 17-21 of the originally filed specification.

² Page 2, section 2, lines 5-8, of the Office Action.

suction chamber by cooperating with a first corresponding threading, and a second retainer mechanism has a second threading configured to limit the motion of the piston in the suction chamber by cooperating with a second corresponding threading.

With regard to Claim 3, Applicants have amended the claim to recite that the first retainer mechanism includes a shaft connected to the piston and a nut, the shaft having the first threading and the nut having the first corresponding threading.

With regard to Claim 4, Applicants have amended the claim to recite that the first threading and the first corresponding threading cooperate to define an upper limit of the motion of the piston.

With regarding to Claims 5, 6, 9, and 10, Applicants have amended Claim 5 to recite that a nut includes the second threading, and have amended Claims 6 and 10 to recite that the second threading and the second corresponding threading cooperate to define a lower limit of the motion of the piston. Applicants have canceled Claim 9.

With regard to Claim 15, Applicants have amended the claim to recite that a range of adjustment of the second threading is less than or equal to one revolution of a second adjustment sleeve. Applicants have amended Claims 13 and 14 in a similar manner.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

As stated above Claims 1-7, 9, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,466,298 to Tervamaki et al. (Tervamaki). Claims 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tervamaki. Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims have overcome the rejections for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to a pipette. Independent Claim 1 recites a housing defining a suction chamber. A piston is configured to move in said suction chamber. A

calibration mechanism includes a calibration threading configured to calibrate a movement of the piston in the housing by cooperating with a corresponding calibration threading. A first retainer mechanism has a first threading configured to limit a motion of the piston in the suction chamber by cooperating with a first corresponding threading. A second retainer mechanism has a second threading configured to limit the motion of the piston in the suction chamber by cooperating with a second corresponding threading, the second threading having a pitch less than a pitch of the first threading.

Tervamaki is directed to a thermal expansion resistant pipette. Applicants respectfully assert that Tervamaki does not teach or suggest the claimed features of a calibration mechanism having a calibration threading configured to calibrate a movement of a piston by cooperating with a corresponding calibration threading, a first retainer mechanism having a first threading configured to limit a motion of the piston by cooperating with a first corresponding threading, and a second retainer mechanism having a second threading configured to limit the motion of the piston by cooperating with a second corresponding threading, as recited in independent Claim 1. Rather, Applicants respectfully assert that Tervamaki at most shows two sets of threadings (the set including the threaded joint 21, and the set including the thread 8) analogous to the claimed thread sets, rather than three sets of threadings (i.e., the set including the calibration and corresponding calibration threadings, the set including the first and first corresponding threadings, and the set including the second and second corresponding threadings), as recited in independent Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that Tervamaki does not teach or suggest the claimed features of each of a calibration mechanism configured to calibrate a movement of a piston, and first and second retainer mechanisms configured to limit a motion of the piston.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn, and the allowance of independent Claim 1.

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Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 2-7 and 10-15 are allowable for the same reasons as independent Claim 1 from which they depend, as well as for their own features. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of remaining Claims 2-7 and 10-15 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) be withdrawn, and the allowance of dependent Claims 2-7 and 10-15.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-7 and 10-15 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

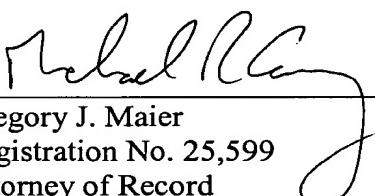
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Respectfully submitted,

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